



Holt County
FSA NEWSLETTER
July 2008

**Holt County
FSA Office**

118 W Davis Street
Mound City, Mo 64470
660-442-3134
Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee

Karl Noellsch
Kirby Rosier
Karen Ingram

Office Staff

Kami Hubach, PT
Kim Meyer, PT
Wendy Tubbs, PT

**County Executive
Director**

Jackie J VanGundy

Farm Loan

Bob Dreyer, FLM
Roger Uptergrove, FLO
Tuesday mornings

Fieldmen

Mark Buntz
Stan Seitz

District Director

Jim Nance



Farm Bill Sign-Up June 25 –Sept. 30 2008

The 2008 DCP Signup period started June 25, 2008 and runs through **September 30**. The rules for 2008 will be basically the same as the 2007 DCP Program. One main change however, is that farms with bases totaling 10 acres or less can not receive payment unless the owner or owners are eligible as a Limited Resource **or** Socially Disadvantaged producer. This requirement is for the Farm **Owner** – if the owner is eligible then anyone sharing on that farm is eligible including any tenants/operators that wouldn't meet the exception. To be eligible the farm must be wholly owned by someone meeting one of the exceptions or an entity that is completely made up of members that meet the exceptions. Farms jointly owned by Husband and wife would only be eligible if both could meet one of the exceptions. *(A Socially Disadvantaged person is defined as a member of a group who has been subject to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity to a group rather than their individual qualities and a Limited Resource farmer for our area is one whose gross farm sales is less than \$116,800 and has a total household adjusted gross income of less than \$19,350 in the previous 2 yrs.)*

Producers may request a 22% advance DCP direct payment for 2008 beginning in July and final payments will be issued after the first of October. To be eligible to receive payments, producers will be required to comply with applicable soil and water conservation and wetland requirements as in the past, use the base acres for an agricultural or conserving use, control noxious weeds on base acres not cropped, file an acreage report and if participating in ACRE, beginning in 2009, a production report.

The '08-'12 crop base acres and farm payment yields in our area will remain the same. Direct Payments and price protection are only slightly less. A few provisions for 2009 – 2012 have changed: the non-farm income cap for eligibility to receive program payments were dropped to \$500,000 and reduces the cap on farm income to \$750,000. Direct & counter-cyclical payments are capped similar to '07 at \$40,000 & \$65,000 but are capped at \$32,000 & \$75,000 if participating in ACRE which is a new Average Crop Revenue Election Program with a state-based revenue guarantee based on a 5-year state average yield and a 2-year national average price. It provides payments to farmers when the actual state revenue for a crop is less than its revenue guarantee. Preliminary 2009-12 rules & current regulations can be viewed on our website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Nominations

Aug. 1 is the deadline for farmers to nominate themselves or eligible peers as candidates for election to the FSA County Committee. It is important for all agricultural producers to be represented, especially minority and beginning farmers. Committee persons play a vital role by helping local producers manage tough financial times and natural disasters. Nominees this year need to reside in Local Administrative Area 3, which includes the townships of Forest, Forbes, Lewis, and Nodaway Townships. Nomination forms are available from your local USDA Service Center. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters Nov. 3rd and must be returned by Dec. 1. New members take office Jan. 1, 2009.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

The Holt County Committee recently submitted a request to have the ECP program approved in Holt County for the recent flooding. The office was informed on July 10th that the request had been approved.

A sign up to implement the 2008 ECP program began on **July 14th** and will run through **September 12th** for producers who suffered damage to cropland due to the flooding experienced in early June. The 2008 program will be administered much the same as the 2007 version with some slight variations on cost share rates. Some of the provisions are as follows:

- Must have at least \$1000 worth of damage
- Sand must be at least 6" in depth and ½ acre in size
- Drainage ditches must be silted in from this years storms not previous years
- 75% of the average cost will be cost shared on eligible practices
- Field inspections **must** be done by our office **BEFORE** you begin the work.



2007 ECP



The office wants to remind producers who filed an application for 2007 ECP cost share that they have until **July 30, 2008**, to complete the work and submit the bills associated with the land restoration. All work related to the 2007 storms must be completed by that date or the application will be cancelled. If you have questions regarding your 2007 application, please contact the office at your earliest convenience.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under loan that it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior authorization or repayment. Producers may request authorization to move their grain either by phone or in person. A loan violation is subject to administrative penalties, and could result in the denial of future farm-stored loans. All commodities are subject to spot check.



Supplemental Revenue Program (SURE)

There are many questions concerning the disaster portion of the Farm Bill and the SURE program in particular that we do not have answers for at this time. We do know that to be eligible the producer will be required to have **all crops** in all counties covered by NAP or insurance if applicable. Producers, for 2008 only, will have the opportunity to pay the fees now for 2008 for both CAT insurance and NAP (\$100 per crop) in order to get eligible for SURE assistance. We should have the capability to collect these CAT and NAP fees soon. Producers will not have coverage under NAP and insurance for 2008, the fees only allow them to be eligible for SURE. **The fees for 2008 must be paid by September 16th for a producer to be eligible for SURE.**

For 2009 and future years the fees would have to be paid by the regular sales closing deadlines and the producer would actually have coverage for NAP and/or Insurance.

SURE will **not** offer payments for specific crop losses, but rather will provide assistance for overall Revenue losses which is computed based on all commodities produced. Producers can be eligible if in a county that has a Secretarial Disaster Designation or are adjacent to one or if the producer has a greater than 50% loss regardless of county designation. The SURE program will not offer any immediate payments to producers who are suffering from the current weather conditions. Payments can not be computed until marketing prices and farm revenue can be computed sometime next year.

Crop Disaster Sign-up Continues and Quality Sign-up Begins

Eligible farmers and producers who suffered crop loss damage between Jan. 1, 2005, and **Dec. 31, 2007**, can still apply to receive disaster assistance. FSA continues to accept applications and make payments for quantity losses under the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), for losses that occurred before the end of the **2007** calendar year.

Also, Sign-up for quality losses under CDP began June 23rd at county offices. Producers must apply for quantity loss to be eligible to apply for a quality loss. However, producers do not need to qualify for a quantity loss. In addition, the requirement for Crop Insurance or NAP coverage still applies. Quality loss participants **will be required to provide actual production evidence. The actual production evidence will need to show the quantity, price AND quality factors.**

Stored and fed production must have a quality test indicating quality and quantity by January 1 of the year following harvest.

For more disaster program information go online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

2008 Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline Extended to August 15th.

The delays in the announcement of the 2008 Farm Bill and weather conditions have contributed to the extension of the deadline for 2008 only. Acreage reports are required in order to be eligible for program benefits if you participate in DCP, CRP or apply for grain loans or LDP payments. Producers need to report all cropland on the farm including wheat, all planted spring crops, prevented planting, and failed acres, CRP, pecans, hay and pasture by **August 15th**. **You will need to bring your planting dates with you.** Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage & prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs. Acreage reported after the Aug 15 deadline will be considered late filed and a measurement service fee (minimum \$46/farm) will be charged for a field visit to verify physical evidence.

Risk Management Agency (RMA) has also extended the date for insured producers to file their insured acreage reports to Aug 15 but encourages producers to file reports at their earliest opportunity so claims can be worked. When reporting to RMA & FSA producers should identify any land coming into production that has not been cropped to ensure you meet sodbuster requirements. (Land in CRP is considered cropped)

Failed & Prevented Planting Acres: Producers need to report prevented planted or damaged crops to the FSA office to receive history or disaster credit. This applies to all crops, whether covered by crop insurance or not. This will provide FSA with a historical record of your crop should disaster assistance become available as it has in past years. Currently Crop Disaster benefits through FSA are only available to producers who are insured under Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) or have Non-insured Assist. Program (NAP) coverage through FSA on uninsurable crops.

Producers who have their crops insured through a private crop insurance company should contact their insurance agent immediately and advise them of the damaged crops. Also a Notice of Loss Application must be completed in person at the FSA office, and the prevented and/or failed acres reported.

It is important that producers file a Notice of Loss Application to report crop losses before the disposition of the crop and within 15 days of the date damage occurred or 15 days from the date damage is apparent.

REMINDER: *Reported planted acreage and prevented planted & failed acreage, shares and farming*

entities should be consistent with crop insurance, and crop sales receipts. When producers report differently than the way they actually operate, they may be considered ineligible for program benefits or may be required to refund benefits. Producers may want to report your PP acres to your crop insurance agent first as RMA eligible PP acres for payment may be different than allowed PP acres for FSA (FSA max PP ac is max ac planted in any one of last 4 years)

USDA Announces a Temporary Restraining Order in Effect for CRP Permitted Use for Livestock Feed Needs

The office had been accepting applications to release CRP acreage for haying and grazing under critical feed use regulations. These regulations allowed for haying or grazing on up to 1/2 of each field for a fee of \$75 per contract. On July 8, 2008 a Federal Judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) regarding the Critical Feed Use initiative. This restraining order suspended FSA's authority to process or approve these releases. Producers who were previously approved are no longer authorized to hay or graze CRP acreage beginning on July 16, 2008 under "Critical Feed Use" provision. Until further notice, haying or grazing under Critical Feed Use regulation will be consider an unauthorized activity on CRP land. The TRO is in effect until modified by the Court. A hearing has been scheduled and hopefully this issue will be resolved shortly.

At this time some options do exist for producers to hay or graze CRP acreage under the managed haying and grazing provisions contained in their conservation plan of operations. This option would require a payment reduction of 25% of the contract price on the acres actually hayed or grazed and only acreage not hayed or grazed in the last 3 years would be eligible for release.

Holt County has also been approved for "Emergency Grazing" of CRP acreage for 2008 only.

Please contact an FSA office if you have any questions. DO NOT hay or graze any acreage released **under** Critical Feed Use provisions until further notice.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
HOLT COUNTY FSA OFFICE
 118 W Davis Street
 Mound City, Mo 64470

July interest rate for facility loans is 3.625%
 and the rate for commodity loans is 3.375%



If you are considering a new grain bin,
 Ask about a Farm Storage Facility Loan!

FSA has a beginning farmer real estate down payment loan program available to eligible farmers in Holt County. These loans are designed to work with other credit sources to provide the necessary credit to purchase farm real estate. With direct loan funding from FSA being limited, this loan program has been developed to allow lenders – working with FSA – to extend credit to purchase farms with a lower amount of equity than would normally be required.

This is how the program works: The applicant must make a 5% cash down payment. FSA can provide 45% of the purchase price or appraised value, whichever is lower. The interest rate on the FSA loan will be a fixed rate. The interest rate will be 1.5% or at 4% below the regular direct farm ownership loan interest rates, whichever is greater. Loans will be scheduled to be repaid in 20 years. Applicants must obtain other financing for the remaining 50%. The other 50% must have an amortization of 30 years, and could be guaranteed by FSA. The maximum FSA down payment loan is \$225,000.

Dates to Remember

July 14	2008 ECP signup begins
July 16	CRP Managed Haying & Grazing Begins
July 18	Livestock Compensation Program deadline
July 30	Last day to complete ECP work for 2007
Aug 1	COC Nomination Ends
Aug 15	Crop Reporting Deadline
Sept 1	Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day
Sept 16	SURE Fee Deadline
Sept 30	2008 DCP Deadline

Visit our Web site: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mo>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326 W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or all (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.